Overloading in the Railways

*254. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that scam of over loading in the Railways has been going on for number of years causing immense financial loss to the Railways;

(b) whether the said scam has since been exposed and if so, the details of action taken by the Railways in the matter including filing of FIRs and blacklisting the firms; and

(c) what action has been taken/proposed to be taken against the officials responsible for monitoring freight movement than mere transfer only?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, one case of First Information Report (FIR) has been registered on West Central Railway and action has been initiated for blacklisting the firm.

(c) Proceeding under Discipline & Appeal (D&A) Rules for major penalty has been initiated against two staff on West Central Railway. Disciplinary action under D&A Rules taken whenever staff are found responsible for any irregularity.

Privatisation of catering services

*255. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to privatise the catering service in Railways;

(b) if not, the reasons to entrust the catering service to Tourism Corporation; and

(c) what steps are being taken to safeguard the livelihood of the present workers?